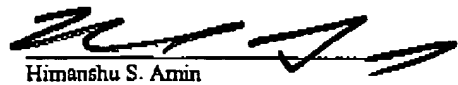


PATENT

MS177851.01/MSFTP954US

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 703-872-9306 on the date shown below to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 1-31-05
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JAN 31 2005**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Eric J. Horvitz, *et al.*

Examiner: Unknown

Serial No: 10/036,566

Art Unit: Unknown

Filing Date: December 21, 2001

Title: METHODS, TOOLS, AND INTERFACES FOR THE DYNAMIC ASSIGNMENT OF PEOPLE TO GROUPS TO ENABLE ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination of the subject patent application, please amend the application as indicated below.